

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05513 110602Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 HA-05 IO-13 /095 W
-----027848 111815Z /40

R 081158Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8817
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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EO 11652C N/A
TAGS: PINR IR
SUBJ: SHAH PREDICTS LONG TERM UNREST IN IRAN

1. SHAH ONCE AGAIN UNDERLINED HIS CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR LIBERALIZATION WHEN SPEAKING ON JUNE 7 BEFORE A GROUP OF ACADEMICS WHO ARE STUDYING RECENT IRANIAN HISTORY, FOCUSING ON THE SHAH-PEOPLE REVOLUTION'S ACHIEVEMENTS. PREDICTING THAT THE "UPROAR BY THE DEMONSTRATORS WILL CONTINUE FOR A YEAR OR TWO," THE SHAH SAID, "THIS IS THE PRICE WE MUST PAY IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE OUR GOAL, WHICH IS MAXIMUM FREEDOM WITHIN THE LAW". WHILE PATH TO LIBERALITZATION WILL NOT BE SMOOTH, THE SHAH CALLED FOR TOLERANCE BY "PATRIOTS" SINCE "THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE HEeded AND IMPLEMENTED."

2. STRIKING OUT (AGAIN) AT FOREIGN EVILS, THE SHAH RECAPITULATED IRAN'S TWENTIETH CENTURY HISTORY HIGHLIGHTING ANGLI-RUSSION ZONES OF INFLUENCE AND OCCUPATION DURING WORLD WAR II. SHAH IS QUOTED IN PERSIAN PRESS (BUT NOT FOREIGN LANGUAGE) AS SAYING, "ONE DAY THE BRITISH

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EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE WOULD MEET THE PRIME MINISTER AND NAME THE PERSONS WHOM THEY FAVORED AS THEIR CANDIDATES, AND ON THE SAME AFTERNOON THE SOVIET EMBASSY MAN WOULD PRESENT HIM THEIR OWN LIST OF CANDIDATES". CONINUING HIS REFERENCE TO THE BAD OLD DAYS BEFORE THE SHAH-PEOPLE REVOLUTION, THE SHAH RECALLED THAT DURING THE 40S AND EARLY 50S THE IRANIAN PARLIAMENT

VOTED FUNDS TO THE GOVERNMENT ONLY MONTH BY MONTH INSTEAD OF ANNUALLY.

3. IN ANOTHER SWIPE AT HOSTILE FOREIGNERS, TEHRAN JOURNAL LEAD EDITORIAL JUNE 8 COMMENTS THAT INTERNATIONAL MASS COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA ATTACKS, DISCREDITS AND CRITICIZES IRAN. JOURNAL FINDS IT "SURPRISING THAT ATTACKS DO NOT ALWAYS COME FROM KNOWN ENEMIES BUT SOME OF THE MOST VITRIOLIC COMMENTS COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE PRESS OF COUNTRIES WHO ARE VERY VOCAL IN PROFESSING THEIR FRIENDSHIP WITH IRAN." EDITORIAL REASONS THAT THESE ATTACKS COME FROM "THOSE WHO HAD BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO DICTATING THEIR VIEWS TO IRAN... SO GROUNDS FOR UNHAPPINESS WITH THE INDEPENDENT STANCE OF THIS COUNTRY ARE AMPLE AND NOT SURPRISING".

4. COMMENT: SHAH ONCE AGAIN HAS STRESSED THAT HE WILL NOT BE DETERRED FROM LIBERALIZATION PATH BY A FEW "MISGUIDED PERSONS". IN A CONFIDENT TONE HE HAS PUBLICLY ACCEPTED FACT THAT TUMULT WILL INEVITABLY ACCOMPANY HIS INITIATIVE---AND WILL PERSIST BEYOND IMMEDIATE FUTURE. THEREFORE, ZEALOUS PATRIOTS SHOULD NOT OVERREACT TO PROVOCATIONS FROM DEMONSTRATORS NOR JUMP TO CONCLUSION THAT SHIP OF STATE IS SINKING, A MESSAGE UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO DIRECTED AT FOREIGN OBSERVERS.

SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL STABILITY, SHAH, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TEHRAN05513
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780244-0616
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780679/aaaacqib.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 60fcc58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2427384
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHAH PREDICTS LONG TERM UNREST IN IRAN
TAGS: PINR, PINT, PINS, IR, (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMED REZA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/60fcc58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014